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REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

In the Official Action, the Examiner rejects claims 8, 9 and 11-13 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Specifically, the Examiner argues that claims 8, 9 and 11-13 depend from a canceled claim and assumes that claims 8 and 9 depend from claim 7 and claims 11-13 depend from claim 10 for the purpose of examination.

In response, claims 8 and 9 have been amended to depend from claim 7 and claims 11-13 have been amended to depend from claim 10. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claims 8, 9 and 11-13 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, be withdrawn.

In the Official Action, the Examiner rejects claims 7-14 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,193,709 to Miyawaki et al., (hereinafter "Miyawaki") in view of JP 2000-254138.

In response, independent claims 7 and 10 have been amended to clarify their distinguishing features. Specifically, independent claim 7 has been amended to recite a body element molded of a heat resistant resin and a reinforcement member embedded in the body element. Independent claim 10 has been amended to recite a body element molded of a heat resistant resin and a reinforcement member fitted with the body element to cover a portion of the body element. The dependent claims have also been amended, where necessary, to be consistent with their amended base claims. The amendment to claims 7 and

10 is fully supported in the original disclosure. Thus, no new matter has been entered into the disclosure by way of the present amendment to independent claims 7 and 10.

Furthermore, claim 14 has been canceled, thereby rendering the rejection thereof moot.

In the Official Action, the Examiner indicates that Miyawaki does not disclose a reinforcement member embedded in a heat-resistant resin. Accordingly, independent claim 7 has been amended to recite such a feature.

With regard to claim 10, the same has been amended to recite, as discussed above, a body element molded of a heat resistant resin and a reinforcement member fitted with the body element to cover a portion of the body element.

Japanese Publication 2000-254138 merely discloses that the contact member (112) is made of Teflon (see paragraph [0032]). Miyawaki discloses the portion 78 (allegedly considered as the second element recited in claim 1) being a main body of the grasping member 78 and also serving as a reinforcement member.

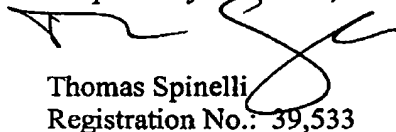
In contrast, claim 7 recites a body element molded of a heat resistant resin and a reinforcement member embedded in the body element. In other words, the body element and the reinforcement member in claim 7 are separate elements. The amended claim 7 has clarified this feature. The amended claim 10 has clarified contact of the resin and the reinforcement member in addition to the amendment to claim 7. Neither Miyawaki nor JP 2000-254138 disclosure or suggest such features.

With regard to the rejection of claims 7-14 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), Independent claims 7 and 10, as amended, are not rendered obvious by the cited references because neither the Miyawaki patent nor JP 2000-254138, whether taken alone or in

combination, teach or suggest an ultrasonic treatment apparatus having the features discussed above and recited in independent claims 7 and 10. Accordingly, claims 7 and 10, as amended, patentably distinguish over the prior art and are allowable. Claims 8, 9 and 11-13, being dependent upon claims 7 and 10, are thus at least allowable therewith (claim 14 being canceled). Consequently, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the rejection of claims 7-14 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that this application be allowed and a Notice of Allowance issued. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference with Applicants' attorneys would be advantageous to the disposition of this case, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,



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